



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

2006 Specialty Crops County Estimates

The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office released county estimates for the 2006 pulse crops and oilseeds. This is the eighth year of the data series. County-level data are not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2006 totaled 305,000 cwt. The Northeast District produced the most with 117,000 cwt, followed by the South Central District with 84,000 cwt, and the Southeast District with 68,500 cwt. Pinto bean production during 2006 totaled 234,000 cwt. Carbon County had the highest pinto bean production with 51,000 cwt. Prairie County holds second place with 35,000 cwt and Dawson County produced 26,300 cwt. The South Central District produced 36 percent, followed by the Southeast District with 29 percent of the total. As for garbanzo beans, Sheridan County produced the most at 48,000 cwt and Daniels County produced 8,500 cwt. Garbanzo bean production for Montana totaled 71,000 cwt in 2006.

Sheridan was the number one lentil-producing county in 2006, with 500,000 cwt produced. Daniels was second with 95,000 cwt and Valley County was third with 44,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast District produced 90 percent of the state's lentil crop. Total lentil production for 2006 was 804,000 cwt. Dry edible pea estimates indicate that Daniels County was the largest producer in 2006 with 484,000 cwt, followed by Sheridan County with 400,000 cwt, and Valley County with 337,000 cwt.

Northeast District farmers produced 1.7 million cwt or 81 percent of the state's total dry pea production of 2.1 million cwt. Glacier was the leading county in Austrian winter pea production during 2006 with 49,000 cwt. The North Central District produced 71 percent of the state's Austrian winter pea production of 110,000 cwt, followed by the Northeast District with 22 percent of the total produced in 2006.

Toole was the largest canola-producing county in 2006 with 2.6 million pounds, or 24 percent of the state's canola production. Teton County was second with 1.8 million pounds, followed by Pondera County with 1.6 million pounds. The North Central District produced 70 percent of the 11.0 million pounds of canola produced in 2006. Richland was the number one safflower-producing county with 6.7 million pounds, followed by Dawson County with 3.9 million pounds, and Sheridan County with 3.4 million pounds. The Northeast District produced 71 percent of the state's 27.8 million pounds of safflower in 2006.

Daniels led the state in flaxseed production for 2006 with 95,300 bushels. Sheridan County was second with 80,000 bushels, followed by Valley County with 75,400 bushels. The Northeast District produced 88 percent of the state's 297,000 bushels of flaxseed for 2006. Montana's total sunflower production was 4.5 million pounds in 2006. The Southeast District accounted for 2.2 million pounds or 49 percent of the total sunflower production, followed by the Northeast District with 41 percent or 1.9 million pounds. Montana produced 3.9 million pounds of mustard seed in 2006. The Northeast District accounted for 83 percent or 3.3 million pounds of the total mustard seed production.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state are now available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. We compile the

only annual county estimates for Montana based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers conducted in the fall of 2006. Thanks to those who participated!

April 1 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 1.9 million cwt in storage on April 1, 2007, unchanged from the previous year. This number represents 54 percent of the 2006 Montana potato crop.

The 13 major potato States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2007, down 2 percent from last year and 12 percent below April 1, 2005, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 30 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 1.40 million cwt on April 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 269 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 21.9 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 9 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 10 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.2 million cwt of the total processing, up 13 percent from last year and 1 percent above the same date in 2005.(continued on page three)

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	TOTAL	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Number of farms and ranches	28,100	farms/ranches	2006	30	1.3
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2006	2	6.4
Average Farm Size	2,139	acres	2006	4	N/A
INCOME FROM CASH RECEIPTS, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS					
Total	2,323,708	thousand dollars	2005	33	1.0
Crops	1,037,537	thousand dollars	2005	30	0.9
Livestock	1,286,171	thousand dollars	2005	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle and Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	13	2.5
All Cows	1,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	9	3.3
Beef Cows	1,382,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	7	4.2
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	55,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	24	0.4
All Sheep and Lambs	290,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	7	4.7
Breeding Sheep	265,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	6	5.7
Meat Goats	12,000	head	Jan. 1, 2007	30	0.5
Milk Goats	2,200	head	Jan. 1, 2007	33	0.7
Hogs and Pigs	180,000	head	Dec. 1, 2006	25	0.3
Chickens	490,000	head	Dec. 1, 2006	37	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,450,000	head	2006	8	3.9
Lamb Crop	270,000	head	2006	4	6.6
Pig Crop	325,000	head	2006	28	0.3
Wool Production	2,350,000	pounds	2006	6	6.5
Egg Production	104,000,000	eggs	2006	37	0.1
Honey Production	10,428,000	pounds	2006	5	6.7
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	153,075,000	bushels	2006	3	8.4
Winter Wheat	82,560,000	bushels	2006	3	6.4
Durum Wheat	6,715,000	bushels	2006	3	12.6
Other Spring Wheat	63,800,000	bushels	2006	3	13.9
Barley	31,000,000	bushels	2006	3	17.2
Oats	1,104,000	bushels	2006	22	1.2
All Hay	4,320,000	tons	2006	13	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,255,000	tons	2006	8	4.5
Other Hay	1,065,000	tons	2006	23	1.5
Dry Beans	305,000	cwt	2006	10	1.3
Pinto Beans	234,000	cwt	2006	6	2.4
Garbanzo Beans	71,000	cwt	2006	6	4.6
Lentils	804,000	cwt	2006	2	24.8
Dry Edible Peas	2,063,000	cwt	2006	2	15.6
Austrian Winter Peas	110,000	cwt	2006	1	42.5
Fall Potatoes	3,518,000	cwt	2006	13	0.9
Sugar Beets	1,302,000	tons	2006	6	3.9
Flaxseed	297,000	bushels	2006	2	2.7
Safflower	27,750,000	pounds	2006	2	14.5
Canola	10,976,000	pounds	2006	3	0.8
Corn for Grain	2,628,000	bushels	2006	40	1/
Corn for Silage	990,000	tons	2006	25	0.9
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

Potato Stocks (continued from page one)

Western States held 81.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 8 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 16 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 11 percent from last season. Colorado potato sheds held 2 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 14 percent from last season. Montana's potato stocks are unchanged from last year.

Central States accounted for 24.0 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 18 percent from last year. North Dakota's potato stocks increased 36 percent from last year, Wisconsin's sheds held 6 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 24 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 18 percent above last season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 8.30 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 19 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 22 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 20 percent from a year ago.

March 2007 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2007, down 15 percent from February 2007 and 1 percent below March 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,206 pounds, decreased 39 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 253 pounds, increased 7 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from March 2006. The average live weight increased 13 pounds to 114 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.01 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 4.11 billion pounds produced in March 2006.

Beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year.

Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 2 percent from March 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 7 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up 20 percent from March 2006. The average live weight was down 38 pounds from last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.20 million head, down slightly from March 2006. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.6 million pounds, was up 7 percent from March 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 278,600 head, 12 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2007 commercial red meat production was 11.7 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on April 1, 2007. The inventory was 1 percent below April 1, 2006 but 7 percent above April 1, 2005. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.43 million steers and steer calves, down 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.14 million head, up 4 percent from 2006.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.97 million, 7 percent above 2006 and 12 percent above 2005. Net placements were 1.89 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 350,000, 600-699 pounds were 375,000,

700-799 pounds were 640,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 600,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.85 million, down 6 percent from 2006 and 6 percent below 2005. Other disappearance totaled 72,000 during March, 20 percent below 2006 but 6 percent above 2005.

March U.S. Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.77 billion during March 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.65 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2007 averaged 346 million, down 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,243 eggs, up slightly from March 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2007 totaled 346 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 346 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.80 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2007, averaged 73.0 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from April 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2007 totaled 40.5 million, up 4 percent from March 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.5 million on April 1, 2007, up 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 316,000 during March 2007, up 21 percent from March 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2007 totaled 811 million, down 1 percent from March 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 667 million on April 1, 2007, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.66 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2007, down 5 percent from March 2006.

March U.S. Milk Production Up 1.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from March 2006. February revised production, at 13.1 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from February 2006. The February revision represented a decrease of 31

million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 2006.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 58,000 head more than March

2006, and 5,000 head more than February 2007.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 46.0 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.13 million head, 36,000 head more than the same period last year.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Milk PDI	Hay Stocks
Meat Animals PDI	Winter Wheat Production
Poultry PDI	
Ag Prices Received	

Peggy Stringer, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant
10 W 15th Street Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov